



BLM News

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Notice of Exchange Proposal published for proposed Emerald Mountain Land Exchange

Field Offices

Glenwood Springs

Grand Junction

Gunnison

Kremmling

Little Snake

Uncompahgre

White River

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO—The Bureau of Land Management Little Snake Field Office published an official notice to amend the Little Snake Resource Management Plan and a public notice to initiate the Emerald Mountain land exchange.

“To make it more efficient for the public to comment on the proposed land exchange and possible BLM management of Emerald Mountain, we will proceed on the land exchange proposal while we initiate the planning process,” Little Snake Field Manager John Husband said.

The Bureau of Land Management Little Snake Field Office published on Jan. 28 the Notice of Intent to Amend the Little Snake Resource Management Plan for the Acquisition and Management of Emerald Mountain in the Federal Register and a public Notice of Exchange Proposal was published Feb. 7 for the proposed Emerald Mountain land exchange. The BLM will use a concurrent planning process for acquisition and possible management of Emerald Mountain.

Open house public meetings on the exchange proposal and the planning process will be held as follows:

March 7, 2005, at Olympian Hall, Steamboat Springs, 3-8 p.m.

March 8, 2005 at the Town Hall, Oak Creek, 3-8 p.m.

March 9, 2005 at the Town Hall, Hayden, 3-8 p.m.

Emerald Mountain, 5,975 acres managed by the Colorado State Land Board, has been slated for sale as part of the state agency’s fiscal mandate to generate school system revenue. The Emerald Mountain Partnership, a local grassroots effort, has collaborated with the BLM and State Land Board on the proposed exchange, which would trade scattered, isolated

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parcels of BLM land for the scenic mountain located just outside of Steamboat Springs.

Of the 15,621 BLM acres identified for exchange, 76 percent have no public access, while 13 percent are accessible only by foot or horseback and 11 percent have public access from a road. The average size of the parcels identified for exchange is 121 acres. More than half of the parcels are less than 41 acres in size. The exchange would be facilitated by the Western Land Group.

The exchange proposal has received letters of support from Colorado Governor Bill Owens, Sen. Wayne Allard, Routt County Board of County Commissioners, the City of Steamboat Springs, the Community Alliance of the Yampa Valley, the Steamboat Springs Downtown Business Association, and the Steamboat Springs Chamber Resort Association.

For more information on the Emerald Mountain land exchange, visit the Little Snake Field Office web site at www.co.blm.gov/lspa or contact Duane Johnson, BLM Little Snake Field Office, at 970-826-5001.

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